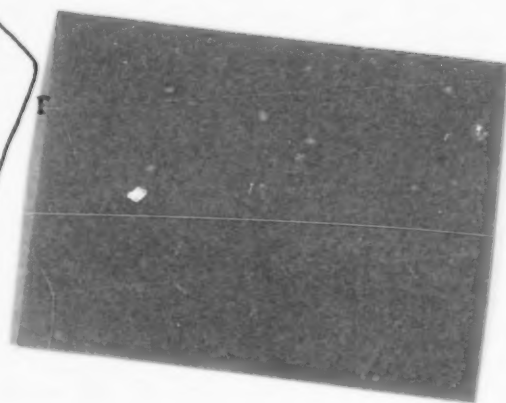


Women Helping Women



Introduction

Around the world Non-Governmental Organizations—NGOs—are at work to improve the status of women. In all regions they are helping women to attain equality and eliminate discriminatory laws and practices. They are working for the full participation of women in the development process. In countless towns and villages, they are encouraging women to help build the foundation for a lasting peace with justice and freedom.

During the Decade for Women, skills are being shared as women together seek a better life for all persons young and old. They are encouraging ideas, information and resources in a common effort to make possible the use of every woman's full potential for the benefit of her family, community and the nation in which she lives. Experiences are being passed on which are useful: ways of working which have been found effective, and suggestions for assistance which may be adopted to meet similar needs in different situations.

This booklet describes a variety of these programmes in different areas sponsored by a few of the many organizations actively engaged in making the 1975 World Plan of Action come alive in communities throughout the world. They were chosen from the thousands of projects designed to help women realize the goals of the Decade.

The 1975 World Plan of Action, important a manifesto as it WAS, and IS, remains in 1980, a document of dreams to be fulfilled.

This publication is evidence of the catalysing role that NGOs around the world are playing in trying to make those dreams reality for thousands of women, at ground level, in communities throughout

the world. The projects in this booklet, chosen from thousands of NGO-sponsored programmes, illustrate the innovative spirit of many NGOs, in dealing with issues of primary concern to women and the communities in which they perform so central a role.

Without belittling the progress that has been made since 1975, it is also evident that little progress has been made in some areas, for example, in the outreach of established women's organizations to disadvantaged rural and urban women. In these little-touched areas NGO activity is especially vital. The involvement of NGOs in women's concerns and issues, a historical fact, is largely responsible for more recent government attention, and underscores the power of lobbying, and the part that special interest groups have to play in "encouraging" Governments to take action.

As long as the NGO community remains sensitive to the realities of women's lives, and continues to exert influence on official opinions and the actions of responsive governments, we can continue to hope that women will achieve the goals of the Decade. For women the world over, the message must be: GET INVOLVED.

Only the sustained concerted action of governmental and non-governmental organizations will translate the World Plan into a binding social contract.

Mrs. Lucille M. Mair
*Secretary-General
of the World Conference
of the United Nations
Decade for Women*

The themes for the United Nations Decade for Women (1975-1985) are:

EQUALITY DEVELOPMENT PEACE

The 1980 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, in Copenhagen, besides taking up many political questions, also focused on:

EMPLOYMENT HEALTH EDUCATION

This booklet groups the various articles under each of these headings . . .

Hostel for Working Women

Equality

In recent years, there has been a remarkable influx of women into all occupations and professions. In India, more and more women are stepping out of the sheltered four walls of their small-town homes, and going out into the metropolitan cities in search of jobs and a career.

But, governed by custom and tradition, they are still not confident to live alone and face the trials of city life; they would much rather live in the protected environment of a women's hostel. Besides, salaries are low and rents are going up.

To provide reasonably priced accommodation to the middle class working woman, the All India Women's Conference (AIWC), the largest voluntary women's organization in India, decided to build a multi-storeyed hostel in New Delhi.

In 1975, the old building that housed about 50 working women was demolished and foundations laid for a six-storeyed hostel that would provide accommodation for 500 women. The master plan also envisages the construction of a dining hall, a kitchen, a library and a multi-purpose hall with a seating capacity of 600. The AIWC would also make available in the same complex, 3,000 square feet of rentable office space.

The project on completion is expected to cost \$1.7 million. The Government of India has already given a grant of Rs 50 lakhs (\$625,000). The rest is being raised through donations and loans from banks. Within the next seven years, AIWC will have repaid the bank loan from its rental income. Thereafter, the entire revenue will go towards social welfare projects.

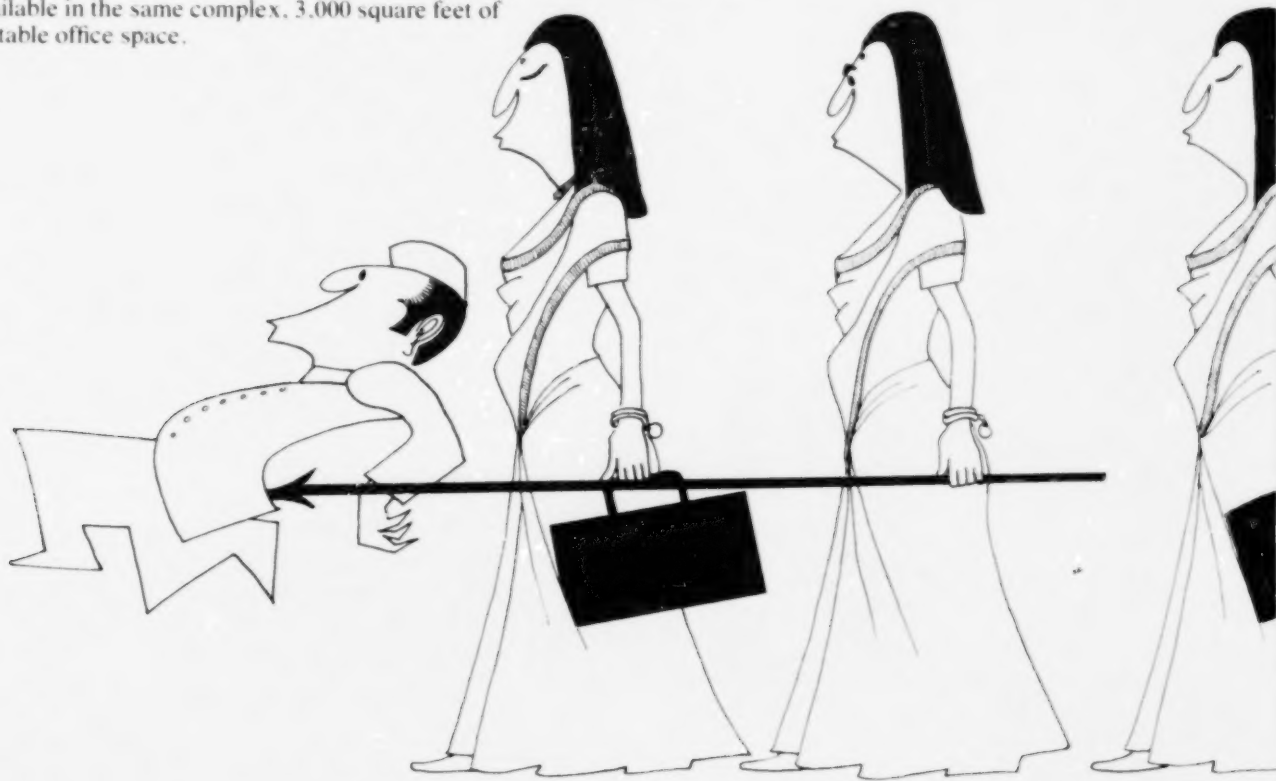
The first phase of the project is now complete and 300 working women have already moved into the hostel.

In the same complex, the AIWC has also been running a free home for destitute women—those abandoned by their husbands and who, lacking professional skills, have no means of income and nowhere to go. These women are given free training in handicrafts, textile printing and secretarial work. The organization also runs a printing press where such women are trained free and are subsequently employed. Most women can resume a productive life in six months.

The AIWC also gives refuge and free legal advice to women having marital problems. In 90 per cent of the cases, the AIWC legal committee has been able to save a marriage thereby sparing the women the trauma of divorce which carries a heavy social stigma in Indian society.

For further information:

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6 Bhagwandas Road
New Delhi, India



Hope for Greek Farm Women

Equality

There are over 1.5 million women living on farms in Greece, and their desperate situation has led to an active programme by the Federation of Greek Women, an affiliate of the Women's International Democratic Federation. To find out exact data on the plight of these women, the Federation of Greek

Women, working with the Ministry of Agriculture and UNESCO, carried out a massive interview campaign to gather statistics relating to the economic, social, cultural and political life of the rural women in their communities.

What they found was the following:

1. None had finished elementary school.
2. None had social security in her own right; only coverage when her husband died.
3. There are no social organizations, nor social life except for church on Sundays.
4. There are no local health services.
5. Women lack self-esteem or a sense of their importance in the life of the family, the community or society.

Teams of Federation women travelled to more than 5,000 farming communities to research information on the rural women, who ranged in age from teenagers to women in their eighties. At first, the women were reluctant to talk about their condition. In one instance, a village priest's aid was enlisted, and he rang the church bell to call the women to the village square. Before they could succeed in their programme, the Federation had to convince the men that it was in their interest to advise the women to co-operate in the study because, as women organized and became sensitive to their problems, society as a whole would benefit. The men then gave the women permission to talk. The flood gates were opened and the rural women seemed to gain strength from the telling of their histories and conditions.

As a result of the findings of the mass study, the Federation held a Pan Hellenic Convention for the Rural Women during February 1980 in Thessalia, a farming area surrounded by tiny villages in northern Greece. One thousand rural women participated in the Convention and used the United Nations World Plan of Action to assess various indices of the quality of their life as regards education, literacy, health, and political participation. Together, they worked to prepare comprehensive legislation designed to improve their lives. Women Members of Parliament participated and will introduce necessary comprehensive legislation. Social security, health services and literacy centres are included in these projected laws.

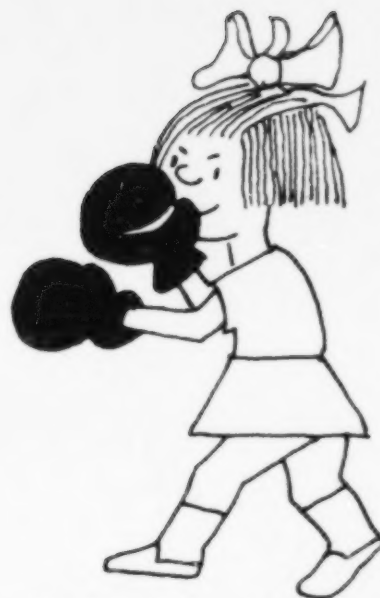
This Convention was a first in the history of Greece and certainly in the lives of these rural women.

For further information, write:

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Athens TT 132
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Sexism in Textbooks



Equality

Prejudices against women begin at the school level. Sex-role stereotyping starts early in the education system. It is evident even in elementary school textbooks. In terms of quantity, a picture book illustration is more likely to show more boys than girls taking a course in mountain climbing. In terms of quality, one girl is a nurse, while a boy is a doctor; another girl is an airline stewardess, while a boy is the pilot. Are there no occupations other than these for a girl? A greater diversity is also shown for boys: a fireman, a policeman, a football player, an engineer or an architect. A picture that does not portray sex-role stereotypes would have shown the same occupational diversity for girls. There is need for a world-wide recognition of women as persons in their own right. Women are not only mothers, sisters, wives and daughters, any more than men are only fathers, brothers, husbands and sons.

As a result of the continuing efforts of members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the California State Division during 1976-1977 carried out an evaluation of sexism in California textbooks. A grant from the AAUW Educational Foundation made it possible to broaden the impact of the project.

In March 1974, members of the California Branch of AAUW met with a school board member who approved the Branch idea of studying state-adopted primary texts in order to identify stereotyped male and female roles. The major concerns were whether boys or girls dominated the stories, who was pictured most often in the story, the physical manner in which the children were depicted and the examples of adult role models in the stories.

Later that year, an evaluation for sex stereotyping of the 10 most frequently used primary school textbooks was presented to school board members, the general public and the local press. A sample folder of alternative (non-sexist optional) curriculum resources to supplement the existing texts was presented for consideration. It included a record,

"Free to Be You and Me", reading lists, lesson plans, and an AAUW booklet, "Free To Decide What You Want To Be". Within three weeks the school board budgeted funds to cover printing of the booklet for use in primary grades.

This was followed by members of 15 more AAUW Branches evaluating textbooks used in their local school districts. A slide presentation was prepared showing the contrast between sexist and non-sexist texts for use as a framework in determining the criteria for legal compliance in California. They consist of the following:

- References which are in the form of labels that demean, stereotype or are patronizing towards females, should not appear.

- There should be equal representation of males and females (including illustrations).

- Even distribution should appear between sexes in problem-solving roles, creativity, mental and physical activity, success and failures, traditional and non-traditional roles.

- There should be impartial distribution of emotions regardless of gender or characters.

- Professional roles, life-styles, and aspirations for the future, if portrayed, should be comparable for characters of both sexes.

- Historical contributions, if presented, should include those of both sexes.

- Sexually neutral language should be used wherever possible.

The ongoing ever-widening circles of the California effort are marks of effective volunteer activity. Such activity represents a positive step towards achieving equality of the sexes.

For further information:

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Water For Development

Development

Water is hard to come by in Kenya—a paradise for tourist safaris but a constant drudgery for the rural population for whom healthy, clean drinking water is a luxury. Wildlife survives where people and domestic animals cannot.

Torrential rains lasting only two months in some areas, seep quickly into the parched earth and the water is lost. Nomads, such as the Masai, follow the rain-clouds, moving from one water-hole to another as their cattle graze, ever seeking new pastures.

In some villages, women walk for miles with huge cans tied to their backs to fetch polluted water from dank, grimy ponds covered with scum and insects. This is the water the people drink and wash in, and to which they bring their animals.

The time and energy spent in collecting water allows exhausted women to do little else, least of all look after their children who, themselves, must help with chores and, therefore, cannot go to school. Water-borne diseases are a major contributor to child mortality.

An attempt to break this vicious circle and to implement the International Women's Year World Plan of Action agreed on at Mexico City in 1975 is being made by a group of non-governmental organizations in Kenya, with the assistance of the NGO Committee of UNICEF and its sub-committee on Women and Development.

Kenya was chosen as a testing-ground for joint NGO/UNICEF action because of its strong *harambee* (self-help) approach to community development. The main objective of the project is to bring fresh water supplies to particularly under-served



villages, thus providing an entry point for a variety of activities such as village sanitation, prevention of infectious diseases, immunization, production of nutritious foods, health and nutrition education, and training workshops for women.

The NGO/UNICEF Kenya Water-For-Health project is an action programme by and for women, to help bring women into the mainstream of the development process. The project has involved 30 NGOs working together as a group under the "umbrella" of the National Council of Women in Kenya and in collaboration with UNICEF and with the participation of women at grassroots level. The women in Kenya have been responsible for choosing the project focus and for project planning and decision making. Today, the over-all Project includes 13 area projects encompassing all seven provinces of Kenya. International NGOs have provided funds for the cost of water tanks, equipment supplies and support personnel. But, well over \$100,000 is still required if the project is to install nearly two thousand 500-gallon water tanks in water-deprived villages and communities, and serve as an example of what can be done by the people themselves.

The National Council for Women bought the first water tank in Olosh-Oibor. The Masai, who inhabit the area, collected enough money among themselves to pay for three more. The Association for University Women and the Zonta Club at Nairobi provided the money to buy the rest of the tanks needed, and funds from the International Planned Parenthood Federation are being used to buy pipes to complete the project. Soon, all 13 villages in the area will be receiving piped water.

The Kenya Government's UNICEF-assisted Village Technology Unit at Karen, outside Nairobi, has produced an inexpensive model of a cement water jar with a tap at the base for the collection of rain water. Fifty of these have been installed and will hopefully stimulate adoption by the whole community.

The provision of one service has implications for many others. Clean water close to the house not only improves the health of children and their parents, but the time saved enables the mother to spend more time with her children. She can also undertake income-producing activities, grow more nutritious food, and be trained in a number of skills. With such a water supply, remote communities can build their own schools and request the Government to supply a teacher, who would otherwise be reluctant to come.

And so the NGO women of Kenya, representing many international and national organizations are concentrating upon this aspect of under-development—not only the provision of water tanks but also well-digging, building windmills, installing *mabati* (corrugated aluminium) roofing, and planting trees. With these must go village sanitation campaigns, the elimination of rats, flies, fleas and mosquitoes.

immunization, nutrition and health education, and family-planning. They are not just talking about these needs, they are designing the projects themselves, choosing their locations and visiting remote areas to bring their regional and area members into the programme.

But local funds are limited. Persuasion must be accompanied by some financial input if the villagers are to make a contribution themselves.

The NGO/UNICEF project is a beginning. Women through their own efforts, their skills and competence are meeting basic needs. Beginning with water, moving on to education in health, sanitation, family care and better technology, each represents an important step along the way for the improvement of women's lives.

For further information:

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Boats Bring People Together

Development

Maldives, the smallest independent country in Asia, is also one of the poorest—a country of 2,000 small islands grouped together around 19 coral atolls in the Indian Ocean, southwest of India and Sri Lanka.

These green tropical islands stretch north to south for about 500 miles, and east to west for about 80 miles at the widest point, and yet the total area of land is only 115 square miles. Few islands are more



than a mile in length. In such an environment, a boat is a necessity both to link the 150,000 inhabitants, scattered over the ocean, and for fishing to provide the staple food. Boats are essential too for bringing basic education to the inhabitants—another area of challenge and strain in the Maldives.

Soroptimist International, a non-governmental organization, is working with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on a four-year project to help provide the much-needed sea transport to these islands. The project was launched at the Soroptimist International Convention in Sheffield, England, in 1975. By the end of 1978, there were seven boats in service in areas which hitherto had no regular transport facilities.

It is envisaged that the boats will take education materials to the Community Education Centres in the 19 atolls. Teachers are being trained on fellowships from the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The Centres and the schools will be used from early in the morning until late at night to cover the needs of primary education, functional literacy, health care, including nutrition, and teaching women simple crafts.

Health workers are being trained to take charge of the health boats to the outer atolls. The boats provided by UNICEF and Soroptimist International are basically the traditional fishing *dhonis* but with a deck, cabin and superstructure added. Fourteen persons can be carried sitting in the cabin and there is good cupboard space for medical supplies. Each boat carries a sail and paddles, in case of motor failure. The time taken to reach the hospital in Male from the farthest islands will be cut from days to hours and for the first time, the communities in these islands will have good medical care. When necessary, patients will be taken to the hospital for attention.

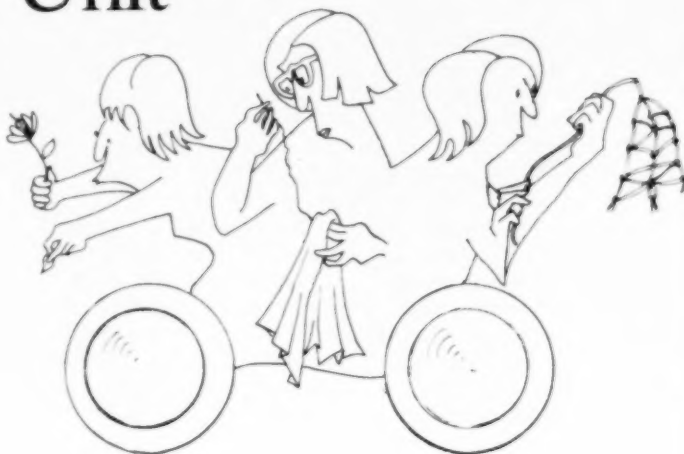
There is close co-operation between the health and education projects, between the Ministries concerned, and between the United Nations agencies: UNICEF, UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The aim of both the projects is to train the Maldivians to train themselves. The boats would help meet the "self-help" aims of all the interrelated projects for health, education and general development: projects that depend entirely on the ability to travel easily from one island to another.

For further information:

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Soroptimist International
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England

Mobile Occupational Unit



Development

Women are often not aware of possibilities that exist for the use of locally available resources to either create tools for their work or to provide for other sources of earned income. Or, they might be aware of these resources, but have no idea how to acquire the necessary equipment, know-how or training to render them serviceable.

In Thailand, the Federation of Business and Professional Women (FBPW), has started a project to teach women in rural and congested urban areas simple crafts which will help them become self-sufficient or at least will assist them in supplementing the family income.

The project aims at raising the standard of living of low income families and bridging the gap between the illiterate rural women and the educated women living in cities.

The Mobile Occupational Unit, which consists of project committee members, experts and instructors, travels to villages and urban slums and teaches women how to make artificial flowers or the art of macramé knitting, free of charge. They also distribute pamphlets or leaflets giving detailed instructions.

The instructors' fees, the cost of materials and all travel expenses are met by members of the FBPW in Thailand.

The occupational unit which started operation in 1978 has so far provided services five times to each of the communities in which training programmes were initiated.

At Wat Kingkeo, 50 women were taught to make orchids from silk fabric and wires. A mobile van

travelled to Wat Bang Sao Tong Klang and experts taught 50 women and teenage girls to make artificial roses that could be used as corsages. Thirty others were given instructions in the art of macramé knitting. The mobile unit returned three times to complete the knitting course. Now nearly 40 women in the district earn a handsome living making macramé handbags, shopping bags, flower pot hangers or window screens.

In the Muang district, two types of courses were given to about 80 women, men and teenagers. While in the morning they learned to make Chinese doughnuts, the afternoon course taught them how to grow mushrooms which are becoming a popular source of income in many villages.

The project can easily be duplicated elsewhere. It requires only a van and trained teachers. There is a

good market for handicrafts which women can easily be taught.

The FBPW members advertise the date, time and place for the courses, which are free. The programme has also received national coverage on the radio in a monthly series entitled "For a Better Future". The programme aims at creating a better informed public, both socially and economically.

For further information:

Dr. Pharani Kirtiputra
The Federation of Business and Professional Women
13914 Kesorn Road
Rasprasong
Bangkok 3, Thailand

Build the Cities, Not the War Machine

Peace

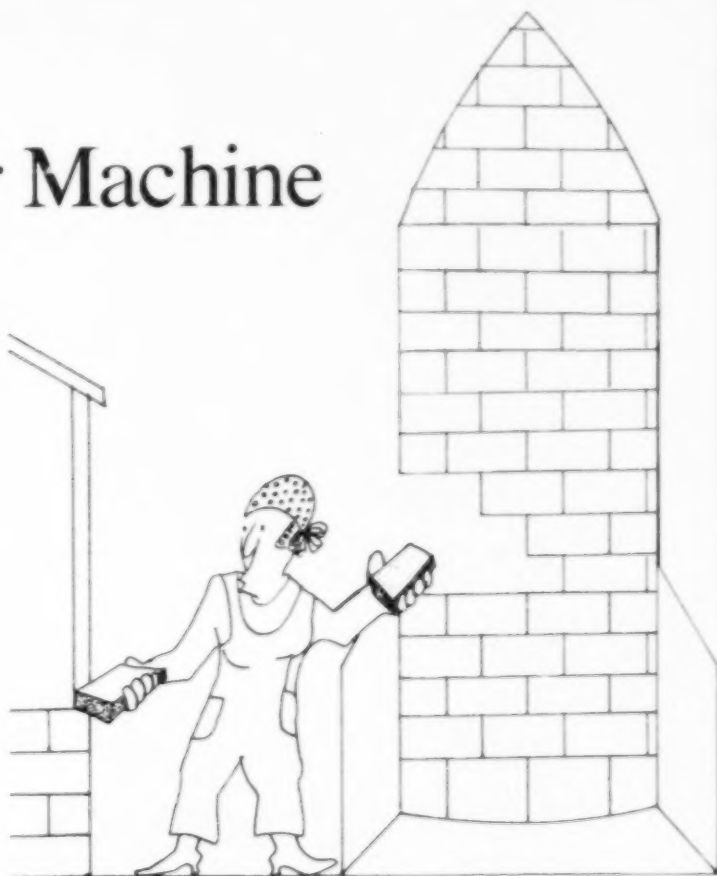
National defence begins at home. It begins with the things that make life worthwhile for the average industrial worker, farmer, or small business person. Military spending in every country is eating money by causing greater inflation, unemployment, shortages, increased prices and competition for scarce raw materials. Unemployment is a world-wide problem.

The re-ordering of national priorities requires the re-adjustment of military and domestic expenditures in the national budgets. If the fiscal malnutrition of the poor is to be cured, the fiscally fat military has to go on a diet.

A programme to reverse the priorities—to feed the people instead of the war machine—has been carried out for four years in the United States by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). Local branches, in coalition (or in co-operation) with other groups, have organized delegations to visit local officials and government bodies to demand a change in priorities from the military budget to domestic needs.

As a result many United States officials at the local level have publicly called upon the national leaders "to redress the imbalance between domestic expenditures and the expenditures of the military" and make immediate relief available to the cities for improving social services and human welfare.

Included in the campaign is statistical evidence that a decrease in military spending will not increase unemployment but will have the opposite effect.



Extensive discussions have also been held on the question of inflation and its relationship to military spending.

It is a fact that making sensible reductions in the military budget could help meet the acute needs of the poor in cities.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has calculated that the amount

of money needed to produce one prototype bomber could pay for the following.

- a year's salary for 250,000 teachers;
- 30 science faculties with 1,000 students each; or
- 75 fully equipped hospitals, each with 100 beds.

The WILPF campaign has provided innumerable opportunities to discuss peace, disarmament and the essential role of women in furthering the World Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Women. This has been done through meetings in coalition with other women's organizations, radio and television programmes, letters to editors of local newspapers and distribution of thousands of pieces of literature bringing the message of peace and the role of women to a wide audience, which otherwise might not be reached by the message of the Decade for Women.

Similar campaigns are also being launched by WILPF branches in Europe and other parts of the world.

For further information:

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Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
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Ghana School Project and International Mutual Service through Travel

Peace

In 1963, the rains in Ghana were more than the Volta River could take. At the mouth of the river lies Kennedy Island (also referred to as Pediator-Korpe). It consists of seven different islands where most of

the homes were destroyed and the primary school serving 430 children was completely demolished. The Government was unable to rebuild the school because of the many villages requesting educational assistance.

The children still continue to attend school in the open, under palm trees, but during the rainy season, they miss a number of school days. The nearest enclosed schools are at Big Ada, the municipal town on the mainland, and primary school-children face the difficulties and dangers of travelling daily about four miles by dugout canoes across the swift currents of the Volta to school and back. Many have drowned crossing the river.

There is an organization, Servas International, which sends its members all over the world breaking down cultural and national barriers.

On his visit to Ghana in 1971, Joe Jiggetts, a member of Servas International and a public school teacher in New York City, met a teacher from Pediator-Korpe Island, who explained the problems they were experiencing in rebuilding their island school.

On his return to New York, Mr. Jiggetts together with Lydia Jones, an educationist, wrote letters to several organizations, requesting money, but no avail.

In 1975, Servas International decided to build the school itself, and raised money for the construction by organizing several raffles, social events and an African evening. Six classrooms have now been built and the organization hopes to build four three-room apartments for the teachers, an office for the school-master, and a commissary. Eleven planners and 50 participants from "Crossroads" and "Volu", two local volunteer organizations, are involved in the project.

Lydia Jones will soon have put into practice her mother's quotation, "If you start it, finish it, or do not do it at all."

The completion of the school has been delayed because of difficulties in obtaining material, particularly cement, and because of irregular mail service. A cheque for the purchase of materials was lost for a year.

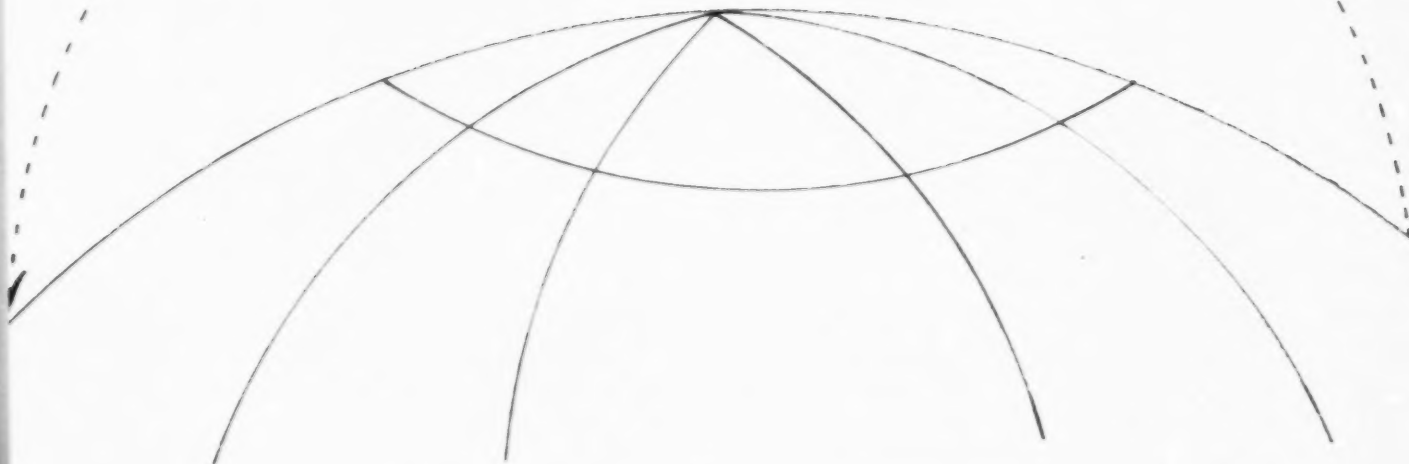
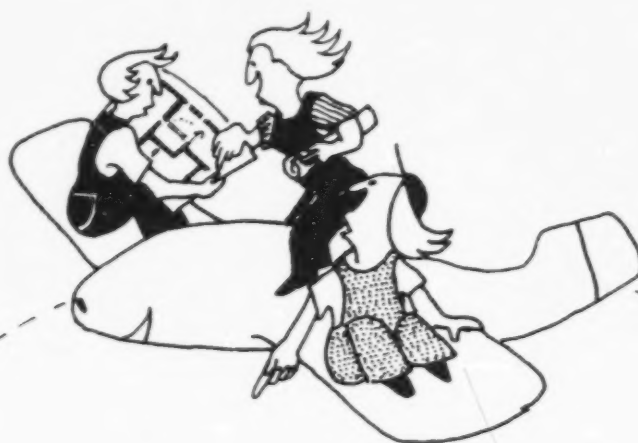
Appreciative of the efforts of the organizers, the School Development Committee of the island requested permission to name two of the Pediator-Korpe islands as Lydia Jones Island and Joe Jiggetts Island respectively.

Servas International is also continuing successfully with its primary activity of "bringing the world into our living room through the visits of friendly, enthusiastic people from every continent". Its "Open-Door System of Work, Study, Travel" enables the international exchange of hosts and travellers to help build world peace, goodwill and understanding by providing opportunities for deeper, more personal contacts among people of diverse cultures and backgrounds.

You plan your own trip, using lists of hosts in the countries where you wish to go. These lists give the hosts' addresses, telephone numbers, languages spoken, activities and interests. You share the everyday life of the family you visit. Stays are usually two or three days. Hosts share their meals with travellers and provide basic accommodation. Foreign visitors are invited to share life in the home and in the community and to share their concerns on social and international problems and their interests in creative activity: a remarkable way to dissolve barriers between people and their countries.

For further information:

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Books Build Bridges Too

Peace

Fired by the talks that they heard at the United Nations International Women's Year Conference at Mexico City in 1975, the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs of the United States, decided to send five of its mem-

bers to Africa. Their mandate: find a project that would further human rights, one of the major themes of the World Plan of Action adopted at the Mexico Conference.

For several reasons, they decided to focus on the Gambia. That country lacks substantial resources; economic growth has been slow. Fishing and fish processing are the main sources of revenue with peanut oil and soft drink bottling producing some income. Of the approximate 525,000 people in the Gambia, 57,000 are reportedly employed. Most of these workers are in Banjul, the capital, which alone has an estimated population of 45,000.

During their visit to the Gambia, the team met with Louise N'Jie, a noted Gambian educator. During a tea held at her home, she expressed her concerns about educating Gambian youth. Children, she said, needed books to learn science and a useful vocation.

The team headed by Daisy George, the Association's representative at the United Nations, was put in touch with the Methodist Preparatory School in Banjul. There they agreed on a project to finance a children's library. Later, the delegation was able to establish a "twinning" arrangement with a school in Great Neck, New York.

Recently they received a letter from the Banjul School's principal, Ronah Forbes, who wrote: "We shall be grateful to receive simple primary science textbooks and some science equipment to do simple

experiments, visual aids on metrication, as we are going metric . . . and any other teaching aids for math and science."

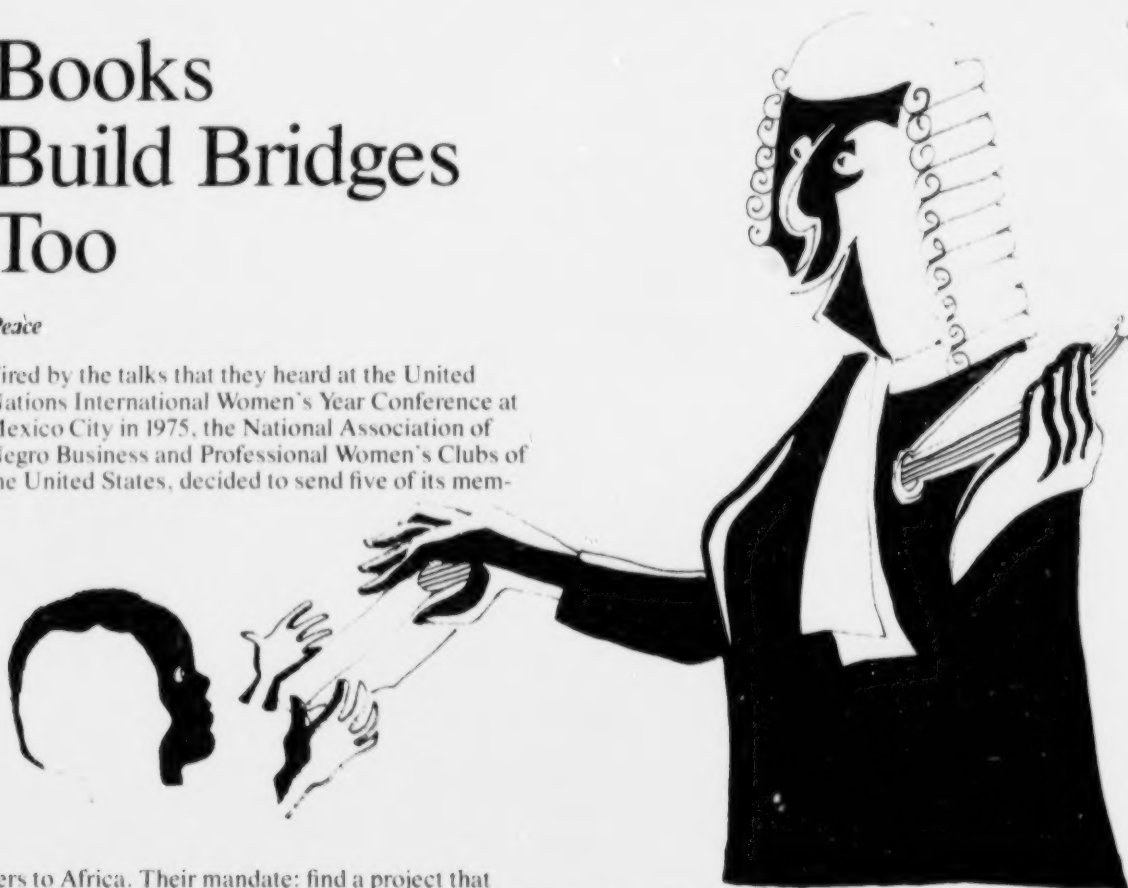
After contacting officials of the United Nations Development Programme for advice, the Association located excellent textbooks in science which will be sent. In addition, the project will be expanded to create five public school libraries in the Gambia, with the help of the Gambian Government.

Each club in the Association plans to raise \$100 a year for the next three years for the book project. They are helping to make their saying, adopted in 1851, come true:

"If Eve, the first woman God ever made
Was strong enough to turn
The world upside down alone
The women of today ought to be able
To get it right side up again!"

For further information:

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National Association of Negro Business and
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U.S.A.



Vocational Training for Women in Bangladesh

Peace

The 1971 war of independence in Bangladesh wrought havoc and devastation. Particularly affected were the women, many of whom lost their fathers, husbands or sons. When Bangladesh became a reality, rehabilitation and reconstruction plans demanded the full participation of a women's organization like the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in order to assure that they benefitted women in a country where tradition had previously not favoured their equal status and role in society.

The YWCA immediately studied ways in which it could respond most effectively to the needs of women and how women's needs related to the

priority needs of the new nation as a whole. As a result, a project for the training of nursing aides and junior midwives was launched and started to function in June, 1972.

The project, through training, aimed at opening up job opportunities for about 30 women as nursing aides and junior midwives. Further, the YWCA provided housing for the trainees which gave students the opportunity for extracurricular activities of an educational, social and recreational nature along with their training.

The Holy Family Red Cross Hospital offered training facilities for the project. The YWCA covered the related costs and was responsible for the selection of trainees. The minimum age was fixed at 17 years and the educational requirement was the completion of Grade VIII. Anyone interested in this type of training was free to apply, but in the final selection, priority was given to those women who had been particularly affected by the war. The duration of the course for nurses aides was set at one year, and for the junior midwives at two years.

The YWCA was fortunate in finding suitable accommodation for the students close to the hospital. There was also sufficient room for other activities such as language training, sports and art classes.

In June 1973, the first group of 17 nursing aid trainees graduated and were immediately placed in hospitals and clinics. Many more have graduated since then.

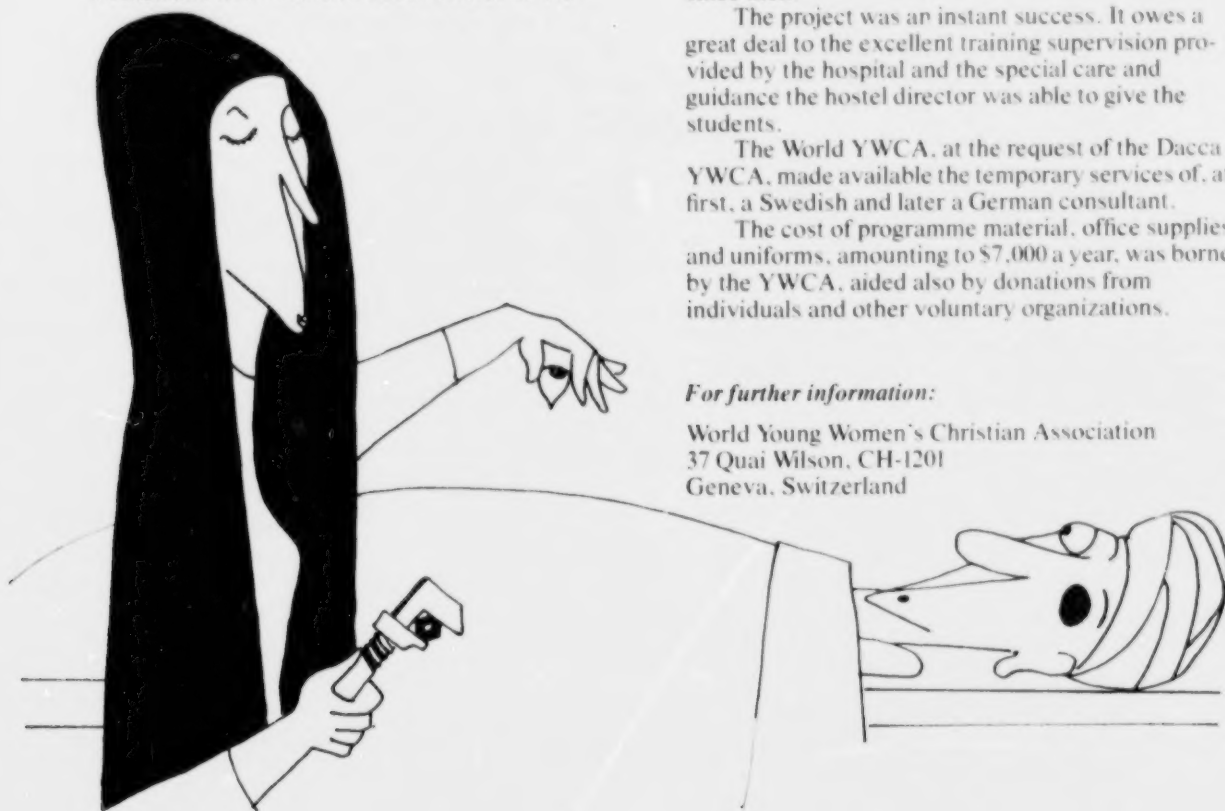
The project was an instant success. It owes a great deal to the excellent training supervision provided by the hospital and the special care and guidance the hostel director was able to give the students.

The World YWCA, at the request of the Dacca YWCA, made available the temporary services of, at first, a Swedish and later a German consultant.

The cost of programme material, office supplies and uniforms, amounting to \$7,000 a year, was borne by the YWCA, aided also by donations from individuals and other voluntary organizations.

For further information:

World Young Women's Christian Association
37 Quai Wilson, CH-1201
Geneva, Switzerland



Handicraft Co-operative in Uruguay



Employment

Fraile Muerto, situated in Uruguay's interior, is a small picturesque town where a number of housewives banded together in 1969 to form a handicraft co-operative. Their objective: to improve their families' low incomes and to help improve their standard of living by marketing rugs, blankets, ponchos, and other craft products, both locally and internationally.

Created in 1969, the *Cooperativa Artesanal Regional de Fraile Muerto* (the Regional Handicraft Co-operative of Fraile Muerto), currently comprises 92 craftswomen, and is the leader of the other artisan co-operatives in the region such as Rincón de la Urbana, Quebracho, Rincón de Pi, and Tres Islas.

The Fraile Muerto region is plagued by serious transportation problems. For example, the bad roads become impassable during the rainy season, isolating many towns. When this occurs, the handicraft co-operatives are cut off from their wool supplies. One aspect of this problem has recently been solved, however, since the service centre of the *Manos del Uruguay* co-operative in Montevideo—the capital of Uruguay—can supply the co-operatives with plenty of wool prior to the arrival of the rainy season. Thanks to an Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) loan, the centre has been able to stock ample wool to meet all the needs of the country's co-operatives.

Manos del Uruguay is a non-profit association comprising 18 co-operatives or handicraft groups which have 988 women members. In 1976, the IDB approved \$65,000 in non-reimbursable technical co-operation to expand its marketing capacity. At present, the co-operatives products are sold to large department stores in the United States through a New York distributor. In 1978, the *Banco de la*

República Oriental del Uruguay listed *Manos del Uruguay* for the third straight year as the country's largest exporter of handicraft products.

In October 1978, the Bank approved \$500,000 in financing to help *Manos del Uruguay* carry out an expansion programme which will benefit women craftworkers in rural areas where 18 co-operatives operate. These co-operatives are expected to achieve a sales volume totalling \$3.7 million by 1983, which will represent a 370 per cent increase over 1977. The IDB's loan will be used for working capital, the acquisition of equipment for both co-operatives and the service centre, and the purchase and rehabilitation of buildings. The project will also enable 500 new craft workers to join the co-operatives.

An IDB programme instituted in 1978 for the financing of small productive projects has made this project possible. Under the programme, the Bank set aside \$5 million to finance small productive projects and social projects in its developing member countries in Latin America. To qualify for financing, the project should: (i) be based on self-help criteria; (ii) directly benefit marginal groups which do not have access to public or commercial credit; (iii) generate new job opportunities; and (iv) utilize a high percentage of raw materials and some semi-finished products of national origin.

For further information:

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Co-operative Development in Poland

Employment

Rural housewives are not only consumers. In Poland, there is a large percentage of women who are agricultural producers who run their farms together with the men of the family. For every 100 men, there are 123 women working in agriculture. There are also farms run by women alone. And women are also responsible for feeding their families, providing them with clothing and managing the households.

After World War II, even though most women were without sound professional training and had not done salaried work, many women in Poland had to provide for their families alone since their husbands

had been killed in the war. As the women could not manage alone, they started to associate in producers' (work) co-operatives and started jointly to purchase raw materials, to produce and market their goods. A great number of such co-operatives which started from scratch in 1945 have become big production enterprises, owning modern equipment and buildings.

In Poland, there are many different types of co-operatives. There are rural multi-purpose (supply and marketing) co-operatives, as well as co-operatives for dairy and market gardening, sewing, credit, collective farming, health, consumer goods, housing, producers, and handicrafts.

Co-operatives operate in all sectors where women are directly involved. Consumers who shop in co-operative stores, residents living in co-operative houses, users of co-operative services or producers of merchandise are all participants in the co-operative system.

In rural areas of Poland, co-operatives handle nearly 100 per cent of all sales of consumers' and producers' goods. Therefore, the availability of articles in stock in co-operative shops, their location



and efficient service render considerable assistance to women.

Co-operatives provide many women with their first jobs. They also give women (many of whom have been unable to learn a vocation in the course of their school education) the opportunity to acquire new qualifications.

Particularly spectacular results have been achieved in the cottage industries in rural areas. Polish village women make a variety of straw mats and laces, weave rugs and produce homespun cloth, turning out hundreds of other artifacts which are in demand both at home and abroad.

Co-operatives in Poland help women not only economically but also socially. They have provided women with new horizons to add to their knowledge and professional qualifications.

The status of women is one of the principal targets of socio-economic policy in Poland. The image that is taking shape is that of the vital woman—maintaining an active social, economic and intellectual life, while helping to expand the well-being of her family.

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Mother and Child Health

Health

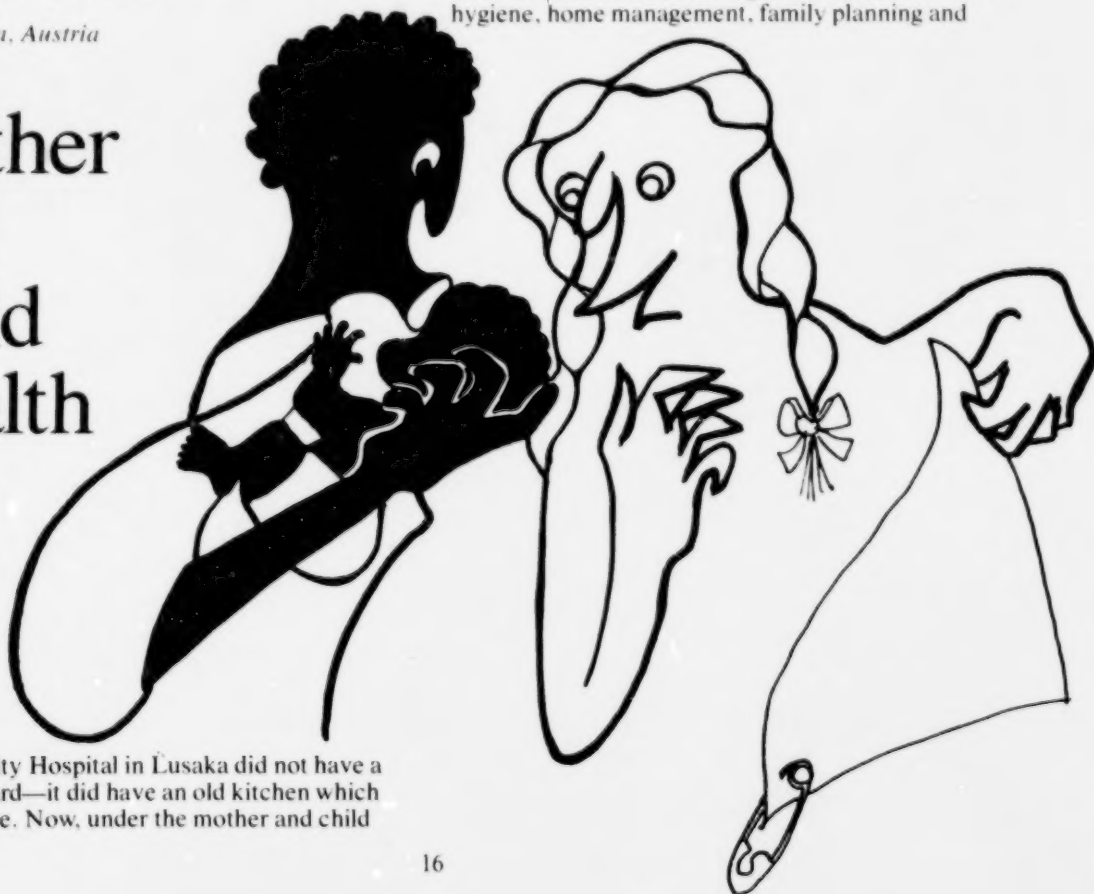
The University Hospital in Lusaka did not have a maternity ward—it did have an old kitchen which was not in use. Now, under the mother and child

health project, the hospital has both a functioning kitchen and a maternity ward. The mother and child health project was conceived at the Lusaka Seminar of Zambian Women after three Zambian women had attended the Mauritius Seminar of the International Alliance of Women—an African regional seminar which discussed maternal and child health. The Ministry of Health agreed to provide funds for the kitchen and also to renovate it into a maternity ward. Mothers and infants with after-birth complications now use the ward.

The Zambian women who attended the Lusaka seminar formed the National Alliance of Women in Zambia and took responsibility for the Lusaka mother and child health project as a pilot project. It is hoped that similar projects will be started at all hospitals and clinics in the country.

The Zambian National Alliance of Women was greatly encouraged and helped by the Federation of Women in the Federal Republic of Germany which donated a bus for transportation to and from the hospital. The German women also sent 200 pounds of baby clothes in the bus. In the near future it is proposed to have a trained mid-wife as driver of the bus.

The National Alliance of Women in Zambia plans to involve all member organizations in providing their expertise free of charge to women and infants at the Lusaka University Teaching Hospital. Courses in nutrition, cooking, child care, health and hygiene, home management, family planning and



sewing will be given to the mothers while they wait for their infants to recover from illness or, in the case of premature births, to gain weight. The different women's organizations will take turns teaching the women various subjects.

In addition, the Government of Zambia will participate in the project through the Ministries of Health and Labour and Social Services which will offer medical, personnel and social workers' assistance to help the women. The Zambia Council for Social Development and individual women from Zambia and other countries have also given funds to the project.

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Colombia Urban Slum Project

Health

The growth rate of Colombia's urban slums (called *barrios*)—where 25 per cent of the urban population lives—is about 15 per cent annually. The slum population doubles every four years. New communities have been formed on steep hillsides where there is no water, no sewerage and no electrification. But the *barrios* have become a permanent part of the cities.

As always, it is the children and women who suffer most. While their parents search for employment, children roam the streets because they have no home, and beg because they are hungry. Women, weakened by the drudgeries of *barrio* life, are helpless to deal with the infant mortality, stunted growth and the variety of illnesses and suffering afflicting their children. All the evidences of malnutrition, lack of sanitation and health care characterize the *barrios* and make them breeding grounds of desperation and disease.

And it is here, in Colombia's burgeoning *barrios* that Zonta International, a service organization of business and professional women is concentrating

its service to the improvement of the quality of life of women and children.

Zonta International, in co-operation with the United Nations Children's Fund and the Colombian Health Plan, has already established three modules of coverage (MACs) in the *barrios*, providing medical care, as well as health, nutrition and sanitation education, and supervision for the people. More are planned.

Each MAC is designed to serve 9,000 persons and dispenses care, treatment and instruction through six health stations. Each station is constructed with pre-fabricated units and is located in an area convenient for close contact with about 1,500 slum dwellers.

The six health stations of each MAC established with funds contributed by Zonta clubs throughout the world, house a medical examination and treatment area, a common room, a bathroom and a supply room. They are staffed by a visiting doctor and permanent health auxiliaries, paramedics and nurses. In addition to medical diagnosis and treatment, immunization, nutrition and health education, supplementary feeding and sanitation, hygiene and disease control instruction, members of the staff give



first aid and are responsible for pregnancy detection and family planning; normal birth delivery; supervision of the growth and development of the child; and the dispensing of medicines for the treatment of intestinal parasitism and malaria.

Tests are given to detect malaria and tuberculosis and the aim is to vaccinate the total target population against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, smallpox, polio and yellow fever. Health volunteers give attention to problems of water storage, latrine construction and garbage disposal.

The MAC, its health stations, and professional and auxiliary staffs are important to improve the quality of life of the women and children of the Colombian urban slums. This project is an international service representing Zonta's dedication to the education and health care of women and children, to the improvement of the status of women, and to the support of the United Nations.

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Immunization Sparks Community Action

Health

Let us imagine that you are a woman on the Caribbean island of St. Vincent. At one end of the island is a lush green mountain which you know is a volcano. Your grandmother says it kicked up a terrible fuss in 1902, but it is not anything to worry about. Then, on 13 April 1979, red hot rocks, the

size of oranges, fly through the air! Your instant thought—find the children! The baby is in your arms, the toddler is nearby, the six-year old—there he comes, crying like the others and frightened like the others, by the terrible noise, the rain of volcanic dust and rocks, and the shaking of the earth. You must take the children and run towards the other end of the island. You head for the banana plantation. At the very least, the big leaves will afford some protection from the hot dust.

After a long run, you come to a building with a tin roof. Everybody wants to go in there, but small children and their mothers have priority. Eventually camps are set up and help begins to trickle in. Much of the help comes from the Baptist World Alliance, the Brother's Brother Foundation, the Canadian Foundation for World Development, and Rotary International, which as non-governmental organization affiliates, have already alerted their constituencies to the medical and educational needs of the Caribbean island countries, including, of course, St. Vincent. Their work was initiated with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), as part of their contribution to the International Year of the Child (IYC) 1979.

When independence came to Granada, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the Ministries of Health of these island countries began to invite non-governmental organizations to join in partnership in an expanded Immunization Programme. This would be for children under five years



of age, and all women of child-bearing age, against the diseases of diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, measles, poliomyelitis and tuberculosis. Each of the above agencies was already contributing resources, so when the volcano erupted they were ready to offer immediate help to the immunization programme

under the co-operative leadership of the Baptist World Alliance and the Brother's Brother Foundation.

A majority of volunteer and full-time team workers were women. They served in every capacity. More than 100 were immunizing nurse technicians, interviewing and recording statistics. Many others acted as clerks and secretaries assisting the Ministry of Health. These women worked along with "adopted personnel", which included volunteer workers from Canada and the United States. Thus began an exchange of technical "know-how", including the uses of media, radio and television to bring health and nutrition information to the people.

Co-operation in training local medical personnel, organizing teams of concerned persons, accumulating transportation facilities, and preparing vaccines and refrigeration units has continued. Follow-up programmes are being prepared. For this, contributions have been solicited for gifts-in-kind such as school and library books, nutritional aids, vegetable seeds, vitamins and medical equipment.

Today, there is in St. Vincent a new calmness after the volcano. People are rebuilding their country and their lives. Women are now calling for "Continuity Teams"—teams of concerned persons—through which regular immunization in regional clinics should become free for all.

For further information:

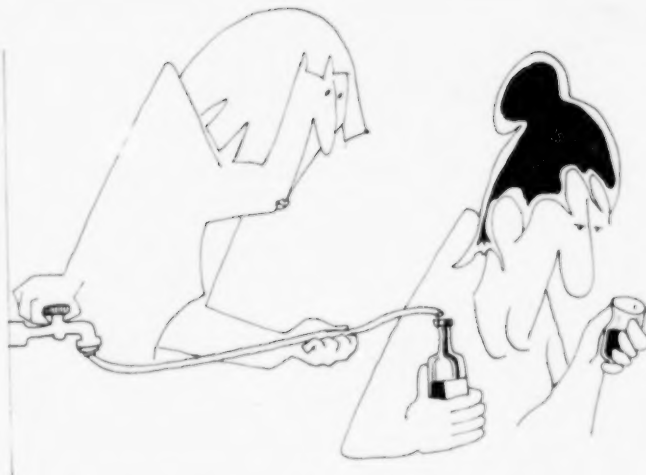
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Curehome for Alcoholic Women

Health

Nearly half the alcoholics in the world are women, and housewives make up the largest single category of female alcoholics. An alcoholic mother has a 50-50 chance that her baby will be born deformed and retarded. Ironically, while nine of 10 alcoholic wives are left by their husbands, only one out of 10 women will leave an alcoholic husband.

To help women fight the grim battle against the bottle, the White Ribbon, Norwegian Women's Totalabstinence Society, a branch of the World's Wom-



en's Christian Temperance Union (WWCTU), runs the Riisby Curehome in Norway.

Surrounded by mountains, lakes, forests and farms, Riisby is located near Dakka—a picturesque Norwegian village, a three-hour train ride from Oslo.

At Riisby there are rooms for 32 patients and its subdepartment, Grainer, accommodates eight more. The patients are women between 15 to 75 years of age. Occasionally there is a couple.

In September, a new pavilion opened at Riisby—a beautiful house with 16 single rooms for patients. It also has treatment rooms and offices. Efforts are being made to add another pavilion for housing the patients' children.

A staff of 35 qualified doctors, psychologists and nurses helps rehabilitate women to a life without alcohol. School lessons are compulsory for the younger girls, most of whom are school drop-outs. Older, uneducated women are also encouraged to attend the classes so that they will be better equipped to lead a normal life. Three teachers are employed for that purpose.

The White Ribbon, which owns and runs the home on a no-profit basis, bought Riisby in 1960 and Grainer in 1972. The social security office to which the patients belong pays for their stay. Other members of the WWCTU send gifts from time to time and the Norwegian Government is also giving some financial aid.

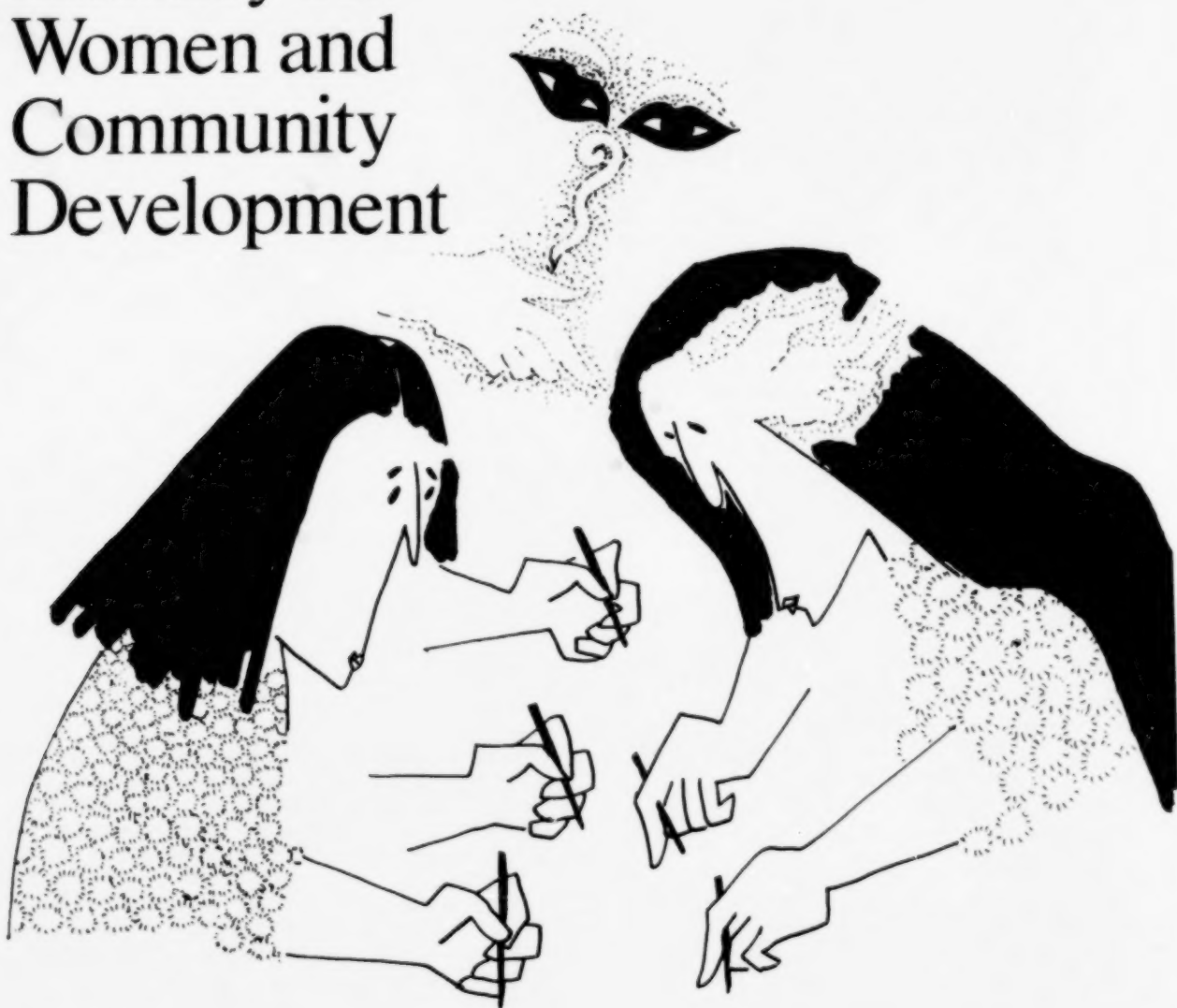
The project receives substantial publicity through social welfare offices, doctors and WWCTU members.

A similar curehome opened in Switzerland in 1975, and in Sweden the WWCTU runs a 24-hour clinic for alcoholics in one of the most downtrodden red light sections of Stockholm.

For further information:

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Literacy for Women and Community Development



Education

Ninety per cent of the population of Nepal is illiterate. Women constitute more than half of the country's total population. Since Nepal's economy is primarily agricultural and, as farming methods are becoming more and more complex, learning to read and write is all the more important. A farmer and his wife, once literate and retaining their literacy, can draw on this asset for the rest of their lives, and pass it on to their children.

The Nepal Women's Organisation (NWO), affiliated with the International Council of Women, has found that an approach which focuses on everyday tasks and everyday needs (technically known as "functional literacy") gives the best and most lasting results. In its campaigns since 1965, 5,402 women

have learned to read and write, and 270 teachers have been trained.

Now the aim is to arouse consciousness of responsibilities and rights. The first step towards such awareness is self-reliance—the ability to stand on one's own feet financially.

The Nepal Women's Organisation helps women to achieve this self-reliance by teaching them handicrafts and manual skills, how to set up cottage industries, how to raise poultry, and methods to preserve all kinds of food including the fruit and vegetables they grow themselves.

The development of community centres is encouraged. These centres are then used both for literacy classes and for training women to become

self-sufficient. The two activities are complementary. A woman who has had no interest in learning to read can often be persuaded to do so, if by becoming literate, she can learn new skills. For example, simple arithmetic can help her keep accounts at a vegetable shop.

Each district, which consists of about 50 to 60 villages, needs 450 teachers.

It is difficult to provide this number and students are often asked to give up some of their vacation time to help the campaign.

Once people have learned to read, their new knowledge must be used if it is not to be lost. So the NWO plans to provide a regular supply of books, magazines, and newspapers to be transported to villages by jeeps or ponies. A special monthly magazine for new literates is being planned on a pilot basis. As a means of encouragement, a small sum of money will be given to the teacher for making one illiterate woman literate. Various organizations, as

well as the King of Nepal, have encouraged NWO in its work by providing funds as well as by visiting adult literacy centres.

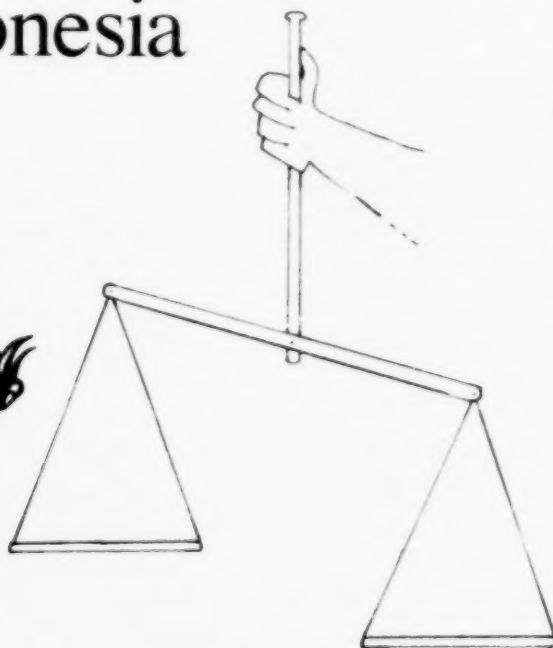
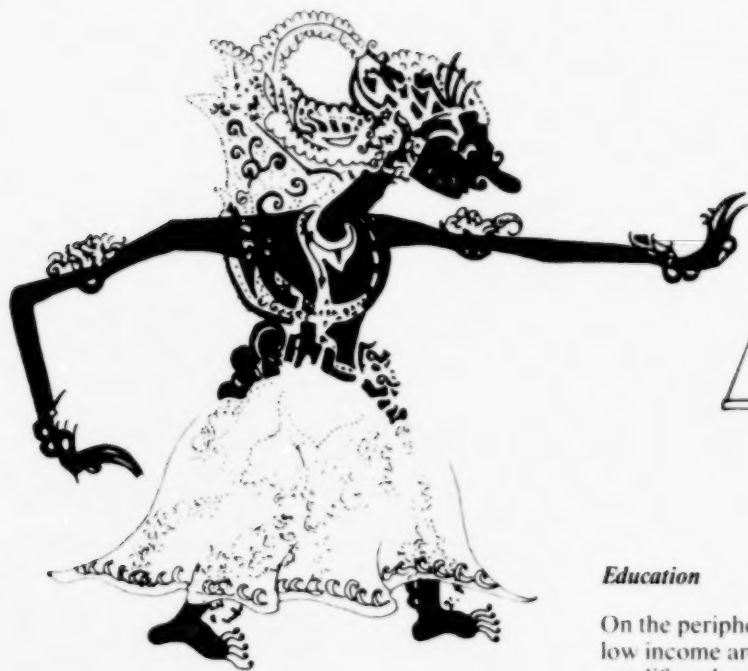
The organization's current project is a training course to create a cadre which will then be used to train adult literacy teachers, with emphasis on family planning. Participants will be asked to attend a central workshop training course for one week. On returning home, the cadre will be expected to train others.

Follow-up and evaluation programmes on this project are a continuing activity.

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Consumer Protection in Indonesia



Education

On the periphery of a very large open air market in a low income area of Jakarta, a voice booms from an amplifier placed in a stationary van, telling the moving crowds of buyers that they must buy wisely for the health, safety and income of their families.

They are invited to take the free literature on the table set up nearby and to talk to the woman from the YLK, the Indonesian Consumer Protection Association. She stands behind the table and tells them about nutritious foods, safe products and accurate weights and measures, and lets them use the scales on her table to check the weight of any products they have purchased. A man hesitantly approaches the table and places a very large package on the scale. He is shocked to find that it is 200 grams less than the amount he paid for. The YLK representative tells him his rights as a consumer, and advises him to return to the stall with the package and insist on being given the right amount. If refused, he is to report to the authorities, through the representative. A Government official accompanies the man to the stall, notes the name and number of the seller, and issues a warning while the seller readily corrects the error. The customer is satisfied.

Each day the YLK Mobile Information Unit goes to several large markets in Jakarta as part of its programme of consumer protection. It has won recognition by the Government as an effective non-governmental organization. Its recommendations and findings have been received favourably and acted upon. In fact, the van and amplifier are paid for by the Government. The YLK also publishes a monthly magazine for consumers and regularly contributes articles to newspapers, women's and professional magazines and broadcasts television and radio programmes on subjects of interest to consumers. It also conducts comparative testing on a wide variety of products such as soaps, bottled tea, fruit juices, soft drinks, matches, food colouring, soya sauce, various brands of cooking oil, T-shirts, pain relievers, hair products, dry batteries, condoms, candies and "TKW", a popular cheap alcoholic drink.

The findings of YLK have been most useful. For example, in the area of product safety alone, its tests showed that substandard and unsafe building materials were being used in construction. This led the Government to issue new regulations requiring the testing of all building materials. Its findings on spoilt and contaminated food resulted in a Government prohibition on sale of spoilt food and an order to destroy spoilt canned food which was being sold in several cities of Indonesia. The YLK's comparative study of 14 public swimming pools in Jakarta, resulted in a Ministry of Health regulation on hygiene and safety in swimming pools. Its recommendations have led to revised standards for testing of food products to protect against micro-organisms, dangerous food colours and additives, and to new labelling and packaging standards. Some misleading advertisements have been banned, such as one for a dangerous insecticide which claimed to be safe near food and small children.

The work goes on. Constant watchfulness is required. Advertisements of goods whose side effects are not specified, food products which contain prohibited or restricted ingredients, goods packaged

with unsafe materials, misleading labels and substandard products, are still prevalent. Low levels of literacy and income enhance the opportunities to defraud, cheat and misrepresent. But through its consumer education and testing programmes, the YLK has made significant inroads. Started in 1973 by a small group operating from a one-room office, it now has an office with 19 full-time and 10 part-time staff and a group of housewives and experts serving on a voluntary basis.

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Market Women's Revolving Loan Fund—Honduras

Education

Being poor and illiterate, the women vendors of fruits and vegetables in the municipal markets of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, are easily exploited by money lenders who monopolize credit in the markets. The women must borrow money at an exorbitantly high interest rate to buy the produce they resell.

The World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO), through funding from its United States affiliate, the National Council of Catholic Women, has assisted a local Honduran agency in setting up a revolving fund from which the women can borrow at the rate of two per cent rather than 20 per cent.

In the beginning, the same system was followed as that used by the traditional money lenders since it was familiar and understood by women. Loans were made for 10 days and collections made every day. The interest collected was used to increase the fund.



Several problems soon emerged, however. It became clear that self-financing could never be achieved at an interest rate of two per cent. The repayment was longer than anticipated, again threatening self-financing. In addition, the loan portfolio was too small to cover all the needs of women.

The organizers and the women discussed several possible alternatives and decided that the interest rate would be increased to five per cent, that extra interest would be charged to those late with payments, and that efforts would be made to obtain financing to increase the loan portfolio. Financing has come from several sources, including WUCWO.

At the same time, a training programme is being developed for the women. Four courses which covered basic nutritional themes and specifically taught women how to prepare the fruit and vegetables they were unable to sell for their families' consumption. These were enthusiastically received.

However, group training is really not the answer for women who work long hours—12 hours a day, seven days a week. Thus, with additional promoters, being made possible by the support of outside women's groups, training will soon be conducted on an individual basis or at most involved with two or three women at a time, in the market or in the home.

Learning to Count the Costs

A system is also being devised which will enable illiterate women to keep a record of their expenses and assist them in determining whether they are losing money or making a profit on their sales.

A monthly meeting is held at which the problems and achievements, as well as alternatives for improvement, are discussed by the women and organizers. One indication of the project's initial success is that 63 per cent of the women using the revolving fund say that they no longer use the services of the traditional money lenders. Others use them only to cover those needs the revolving fund is unable to meet. However, as the fund grows through greater participation, that situation will be overcome.

The programme has, to date, reached close to a 100 women, and is expected to extend much further in the future.

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Radio Programmes for Women

Education

"Life is more difficult for me than it was for my grandmother. There is not enough food. One cannot do much without money and I have very little. My daughters are not educated, only my sons. My daughters were married when they were very young. The eldest already has four children."

This is only a small part of the testimony of one woman in a village of a developing country. The number of her sisters around the world is legion. Recently, a gathering of leaders of world organizations were earnestly discussing the plight of women like her.

To provide a classroom learning experience for the nearly one billion women in third world countries, would require 10 million school rooms and teachers—if there were 100 women gathered in each

room—and, if those women could find any time for formal training in their overburdened lives.

It seemed clear that formal education was no real possibility for the masses of illiterate women. A list was made of the kinds of education needed by poor women, most of whom lived in rural areas. It included health and nutrition courses, and training to increase crop yields and much more. Clearly, some avenue for non-formal education was essential to assist the masses of women living in deprivation.

One member of the group suggested that radio, if effectively employed, offered one of the best ways to reach large numbers of women day after day, week after week. To buttress the point, the Director of Women's Radio Programmes in Gambia has decided to broadcast educational programmes for women in her country. She had earlier attended a population and development broadcast training workshop held for the West African region by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the Government of Cameroon.

In co-operation with appropriate agencies in her country, she will focus on: (i) *Community Improvement Programmes* which will cover health, nutrition, child care, family planning, prevention of diseases and improved methods of food production and preservation; (ii) *Family Life Education and Inheritance* to cover women's rights and privileges, polygamy, the extended family system—including examples of external pressure and interference in the home, merits of family norms and practices, aspects of these customs that need to be reviewed, and a critical examination of the family system and the position of women in their homes; and (iii) *Civil Education Programmes* which will focus on female participation in the political and decision-making process, scrutinize daily issues, and create an awareness of problems.

In her work, she will endeavour to make the programmes interesting so women will want to listen. Further, in a variety of ways, she will encourage feedback from her audience so that her programmes will increasingly focus on the real needs and concerns of women.

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